Investigating Issues in Your Community

Use this checklist to identify ways to research and investigate community issues, challenges, and needs, and then prepare to report your findings. Be sure to include multiple methods of investigation to get to the root of the problem.

Research Methods

Check the research methods that are appropriate for the project. Write notes in the space provided.

☐ Interviews _____
☐ Focus groups _____
☐ Surveys _____
☐ Observations _____
☐ Texts to read (newspaper, blogs, books) _____
☐ Other documents _____
☐ Watching videos _____
☐ City records _____
☐ Demographic data _____
☐ Google Maps _____
☐ Listening to podcasts _____
☐ Other _____

> **Planning Check!** Are the research methods:
> ✓ Based on youth input?
> ✓ Appropriate for what you need to find out?
> ✓ Appropriate for learning objectives?
> ✓ Appropriate for the amount of time?
> ✓ Using quality information / sources?
> ✓ Mindful of contradictory information?
> ✓ Engaging, interesting, and sustainable?

Analyzing Data and Reporting Findings

Check the best ways to report your findings for the project.

☐ Charts and graphs _____
☐ Written report _____
☐ PowerPoint presentation _____
☐ Verbal summary _____
☐ Visual displays (photographs, videos) _____
☐ Published writing (newspaper, blogs, books) _____
☐ Other _____

> **Planning Check!** Do the findings:
> ✓ Shed light on the root(s) of the problem?
> ✓ Lead to a possible solution?
> ✓ Reveal feasible ways for youth to get involved?
> ✓ Suggest potential community partners?

Materials or Resources Needed

Check the materials/resources needed for the project.

☐ Computers, cameras, video cameras, or other technology _____
☐ Access to information (people, databases, records, etc.) _____
☐ Internet access _____
☐ Microphones or other equipment for interviews _____
☐ Safety supplies such as gloves, hard hats, etc. _____
☐ People resources such as interpreters, guides, etc. _____
☐ Office supplies _____

> **Planning Check!** Are materials needed to:
> ✓ Guide youth in making a project plan?
> ✓ Carry out the project work?
> ✓ Help youth document learning?
> ✓ Help youth set learning objectives?
> ✓ Establish agreements with or among youth, partners, or volunteers?
> ✓ Conduct a culminating event?
> ✓ Reflect or review?

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21st Century Community Learning Centers